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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(NR93-035)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HEARING ON RESEARCH FACILITIES AT USDA

For immediate release, Wednesday, June 9, 1993

Washington -- The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition has scheduled a public hearing to review the placement of research facilities at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) science and education agencies, according to Subcommittee Chairman Charles Stenholm, D-Texas and Ranking Minority Member Bob Smith, R-Ore. Evidence indicates that the placement of facilities at USDA research installations is not guided by priorities which are linked with ongoing programs. During a recent hearing before the Subcommittee, Dr. James Kloeck, current head of the Users Advisory Board, called for a moratorium on agriculture research facilities construction until better priorities can guide their placement.

The hearing will be held on June 17, 1993, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D. C. The Subcommittee expects to hear from a number of individuals both inside and outside the agriculture research system to discuss how to ensure that placement of research facilities will meet the needs of agriculture research agencies in the future.

"It is essential that agriculture research investment is consistent with the needs of producers and consumers. Placement of research facilities must not only meet the needs of the current system, but must be coordinated with ongoing research programs at USDA. We must prepare for the needs of the future," Stenholm said. "Too let these decisions be made by only a small number of individuals or by those states which are best represented in the political process will not serve the pressing needs which agriculture faces today," he added.

Questions concerning the hearing should be directed to Stan Ray or Mike Westendorf of the Subcommittee staff at 202-225-1495.

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